



Forfar & District Hill Walking Club

Newsletter 44

December 2014

www.fdhwc.org.uk

President's Column

Well, my comeback that I mentioned in the last newsletter didn't last long. After being out of action for 6 months due to an right Achilles tendon injury, I made a short 2 month comeback in May to June, to be followed a left ankle ligament injury (on Ben Vrackie meet in June) followed by a right knee cruciate ligament (stumbling out my back door) and yet another 6 months out of action. Three separate injuries one after another. Hopefully that's it all over for a while – I've done my time! I must apologise for my absence on the hills – hardly the way to lead the club. I'm looking forward to being back in action in 2015.

I usually give my highlight of the year at this time – well, there was not much on the hillwalking front, though the day out on Ladhar Bheinn via Coire Dhorrcail from Barrisdale was fantastic. The Glen Doe eagle visit at the June weekend must come as second, The Largo Law social meet comes third. And Raith defeating Rangers to win the Challenge Cup would be my fourth.

I wish you a very Happy Christmas and hope to see you on one of the festive meets.

Best Wishes,
Colin,
President

Festive Meets

Sunday 28th December – Ben Tirran

8:00 Myre, 8:45 Clova Hotel

Sunday 4th January – Monega Hill

8:00 Myre, 8:45 Kirkton of Glenisla

Notes dates may be changed if Saturday looks the better weather.

'Far I wi noo' plaque - 2014

Please report in with news of any incidents, funny or otherwise, which occurred during 2014. A vote will be taken at the AGM, and winner will be awarded the plaque. The 2013 award went to Willie Mather and was entitled "Them boots are made for walking".

Congratulations – baby's here

Many congratulations to Mel Henderson and Ian Shand who had their first baby, a girl called Briar, on 12th December. Mel and Ian say they will bring Briar to her first meet soon - high tea meet!

High Tea Meet

Sunday 18^h January

This meet will be a crossing of the Grampians from Aboyne to Glen Esk by either the Fungle Path or the Firmounth Path. The meet is by bus, leaving from Sauchieburn Hotel, Luthermuir at 07:00. High tea will be taken at the Sauchieburn Hotel at 17:00. Please contact the meet secretary if you require a bus seat and/or are coming for high tea. If coming for high tea, please state your choice of main course to Ray by Wednesday 14th January.

Menu - £14

- Pan Fried Chicken breast with a mushroom sauce
- Deep fried breaded haddock
- Beef olives with an oatmeal stuffing
- Grilled Salmon Steak with sweet chilli dressing
- Lasagne with Garlic Bread and Salad
- Vegetable and Basil Tart

All served with fresh vegetables of the day, chips or potatoes.

Followed by homemade cakes and scones with clotted cream and jam, tea and coffee.

Reminder: Limericks required?

The president has been slagging off his good golfing buddy, Jerry, at the High Tea for several years with several tasty (and sometimes nasty) limericks, and in the last 2 years Jerry has even dared to counter-attack with some of his own. Let's see who can prepare one for the next high tea. We can allow a couple each. That won't take too long.

Sheila & Bill Simpson **Conquerors of the Munros, Corbetts, and now the Grahams**



Sheila and Bill Simpson, have recently completed climbing the 233 hills called the Grahams. Their chosen last summit was Meall a'Mhuic in Glen Lyon. Sheila and Bill were accompanied by members of the Friockheim & District Walkers Club on their completion.

This most recent achievement follows on from the completion of the 282 Munros in 2005 and the 221 Corbetts in 2010. Their pursuit of the Grahams was interrupted due to Bill having heart surgery, but he quickly recovered within a few months and they carried on with their quest. Their walks involved many detours due to Sheila's fear of cows!

This remarkable feat was made doubly so by the fact that all the Munros, Corbetts and Grahams were climbed by Sheila and Bill together, sometimes alone as a couple and sometimes with other groups. They are active members of the Friockheim & District Walkers Club and also members of this club. Sheila and Bill are both now retired. In addition to walking, their main hobbies are cycling and Scottish Country dancing, several nights a week all over Angus. They also spend time with their 4 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. In May this year, Sheila and Bill also completed the TGO Challenge, a walk from the west coast at Oban, to the east coast at St. Cyrus.

Quite a record!

Note: Munros are main summits over 3000 feet, Corbetts are hills between 2500 and 2999 feet, Grahams are hills between 2000 and 2499

feet. Both Corbetts and Grahams must have a 500 feet descent all around, separating them from the nearest hills. Munros have no such rule.

Last Munro:

Sunday 28 August 2005

Ben Lomond

Last Corbett:

Saturday 28 August 2010

Stob a' Bhealach an Sgriogain, Ardgour

Last Graham:

Sunday 10 August 2014

Meall a'Mhuic, Glen Lyon

Meeting Reports

August 2014 – Turin Hill. A group of 14 met at the Back of Turin Hill farm (thanks for organising this, Claire). We climbed 100m to the summit of our local Marilyn on a rather windy but clear evening. Afterwards, we presented Kate and John with some gifts, as this was their last club event before departing for Australia.

September 2014 - Geocaching Revisited (2nd attempt). 13 attended. Met at Reid Park at 19:00 armed with GPS and walked up to Balmashanner. This time, we were given grid references! Mel set a course of 5 sites. 5 groups set out and all returned just as darkness fell. There was a varied success rate but 2 groups managed to find all 5. It just proved that many of us don't know how to use their GPS.

October 2014 – 19 attended this open meeting, followed by an excellent talk by John Arnott, MBA. "What the MBA does". Held at the new venue - Forfar Fire Station, 4 Strang Road, Forfar. Very comfortable.

November 2014 – 14 members and one potential new member (Nicola) attended, this the 2nd meeting in our new home of the Fire Station. The short meeting was followed by the annual quiz night. Ray and Carolyn were quizmasters for the 2nd year and provided the 4 teams with a variety of questions and photographs. The team called Pointless (Neil, John McD, Colin) won the chocolate oranges.

December 2014 – 18 members, one guest and 2 potential new members attended. The open meeting was followed by an illustrated talk by Andy Malcolm, Invermark Estate. The talk started with the daily life of a stalker in Glen Esk, followed by his exchange with a South African keeper, to a game reserve in NW South Africa. A fantastic talk!

Photography competition

The club's annual photographic competition will be held on Monday February 2nd. For the 7th year running, the judge will be Graham Wilkinson from Carnoustie Camera Club. Entries are to be submitted by Saturday 24th January.

Note that changes to the rules were made at the AGM in March 2013, allowing entries to be in purely digital format. Of course, prints and slides are still acceptable too. Please send/email entries to colin.sinclair@btinternet.com. If sending images, make sure you send at full resolution. You may need to send one at a time. Make sure your emails say "1 of 5" etc. Each entrant is allowed a maximum of 5 photographs, taken in the last 12 months. For full rules and naming guidelines for prints and images, see the rules at the end of the constitution. http://www.fdhwc.org.uk/docs/fdhwc_constituton_2013.pdf

If entering a print (rather than a digital image), Graham would also like to receive a digital image or negative, in order to help with his summary and to suggest any improvements to the photographs

Curling 2015

Bob Railton has organised a club curling night at Forfar Ice Rink, and once again, we are sharing the rinks with Carnoustie Panbride Badminton Club. The date set is Saturday 21st March. More details later.

Meet Reports July – December 2014

6 July 2014

Tom Buidhe & Tolmount

Eight members & guests turned out for the Meet Secretary's Mystery Meet to Tom Buidhe and Tolmount. The walk followed Jock's Road from the Glen Doll car park as far as Davy's Bourach then descended slightly before climbing the grassy slopes of Tom Buidhe. From there it was just a quick hop across to Tolmount before rejoining Jock's Road near Cairn Lunkard. Looking back from there, Tolmount seems such an insignificant little bump to be classified as a Munro. The Munro-baggers present duly ticked it off nevertheless. From there we returned to Davy's Bourach and down to the car park.

17 August 2014

Ochil Hills

The bus to the Northern Corries car park at Cairngorm was cancelled. The weather forecast was very poor and very few were interested in going. After careful scrutiny of the weather forecasts, it looked like the most likely direction to avoid the worst of the rain and wind would be to the south and west and so a group of six set off for the Ochils. They parked at Woodland

Park between Tillicoultry and Alva before following the path on to open moorland beneath Ben Ever. A circuitous ridge took them eventually to Ben Cleuch before a descent to Tillicoultry via Mill Glen. A walk alongside the golf course took the group back to the car park. Although it was very windy, the rain was avoided completely, which was a remarkable achievement, given the deluge suffered by much of the country that day.

24 August 2014

Backwater Reservoir

Only five members turned out for this Social Meet. From the car park along the eastern side of the reservoir they completed a circular walk to the north on a hill route known as the High Tree.

12-14 September 2014

Torridon

At last, a spell of fine weather had people anticipating a fine weekend at Torridon Youth Hostel. Eleven members turned up, with some arriving early to go walking on Friday. Saturday saw most of the group on Liatach with others on Bein Damph, Bein Dearg and two enjoying a low-level walk to Coire Mhic Fhearchair. Most members walked again on Sunday, with Slioch being the most popular choice.

21 September 2014

Falls of Drumly Harry

This Social Walk was cancelled. It turned out that ropes would be needed to get a good view of the falls and the walk itself would be very short unless an additional route was planned. This may be reconsidered at some point in the future.

28 September 2014

Glen Dochart

As this was a Bus Meet, we took advantage of the opportunity to do a through walk. Although only eleven booked their place, it was decided to carry on with the original plan in any case. The walk started on the A85 a few miles before Crianlarich, following rather boggy land before climbing to the Munros of Meall Ghlas and Sgiath Chuill. The route then continued northwards to Glen Lochay, where the group crossed the bridge over the River Lochay to the waiting bus on the other side.

19 October 2014

Mount Battock

Yet another poor forecast for the entire country came close to forcing cancellation of this meet. With the west being particularly wet and windy, plans to go to the west end of Glen Lyon were abandoned. A brave band of three, including one guest, opted to stay as far east as possible and drove over the Cairn O' Mount to the car park just past Bridge of Dye. The three reached Clachnaben in showery rain and a wind so fierce that it prevented them from venturing on to the

rocky summit. They fought their way against the wind to the top of Mount Battock where the shelter gave them some welcome respite. A different route back down a path to the south enabled the walkers to get out of the wind more quickly. A welcome refreshment stop at Charr Bothy was followed by a relatively sunny walk out in much calmer conditions.

9 November 2014 **Spittal of Glenshee**

Eleven members & guests were there. An excellent day of clear blue skies after all the rain meant that we had got our timing right for a change. We climbed Glas Tuillaichan from the Dalmunzie Hotel, following the route of the old railway track to Glenlochsie Lodge. From there it was a fairly short descent and re-ascent to Carn an Righ from where there were excellent views of the snow-dusted Cairngorms. We returned via Loch nan Eun and the rather boggy descent into Glen Taitneach.

21-23 November 2014 **Tyndrum**

A late flurry of bookings resulted in eleven members attending this Weekend Meet. Most members walked on both days despite very wet weather in some areas. Hills climbed on Saturday included Ben Dorain and Ben an Dothaidh with another group on the Black Mount. On Sunday one group went to Sgur na h-Ulaidh in Glencoe while others were on Ben Dorain. Others climbed hills on the way home.

7 December 2014 **Mayar**

Once again we were the victims of a bad weather forecast. Plans to travel north to Cock Bridge to climb Brown Cow Hill had to be changed due to expected high winds in the eastern Cairngorms. In the event seven members and guests travelled the short distance to Glen Doll where most of the walkers expressed a preference for a walk up through Corrie Fee to Dreish and Mayar. The group were first into the car park just as dawn was breaking. A light dusting of snow on frozen ground made the climb to the top of Corrie Fee a bit tricky in places. The last stretch to the summit of Mayar was completed in a very strong, chilly wind with snow falling steadily by this time. By the time the walkers left the summit there was a considerable amount of snow underfoot. At the bealach before the climb to Dreish the wind was increasing again and the group decided to call it a day, heading down the ridge above the Kilbo Path to the forest, and eventually the car park.

Boules 2014

This was held on Saturday 26th October at the Glen Clova social. Ten players contested a round-robin in 5 pairs. It was played in a round-robin manner with each match consisting of the best of 3 ends. Rita and Linda won winning 3 out of 4, and they were declared 2014 champions.

Unscheduled events to come

Some extra events are planned for 2015.

These include

- Bike Maintenance
- Abseiling
- Wild Camping

Dates will be published in due course.

Mountain Mind Quiz 2015 **Wed 11th March, Plough Inn, Forfar**

Unfortunately 2015 is our turn on the rota to organise the event, so no chance of winning it 4 times in a row. The club committee have the job of arranging this and will be looking for much help from members both in preparing for the event and running the event. Already we've decided to take the event away from Dundee to Forfar to try to encourage some of the Aberdeenshire clubs to enter a team – Forfar is only an hour from Aberdeen.

Old Hughie

by Ray Campbell

Ray picked this literary delight in Charr Bothy, visited by the small group out on the October day meet. It was contributed by an anonymous visitor to the bothy.

*The snow had lain for quite a while
On the land round Aberdeen
The farms were isolated
And the cattle getting lean*

*The authorities were worried
They'd be low on food supplies
So they chartered a 'copter
And dropped food from the skies*

*Everything was going well
'til they were almost through
When the guide said "Oh bloody hell,
We nearly missed old Hugh"*

*"That chimney sticking through the snow
That's old Hughie's place"
Another hour of snowfall
And there would have been no trace.*

*They shouted down the chimney
"This is the Red Cross here"
And old Hughie said "Well bugger off,
I bought a flag last year."*

Quality Mountain Day

by an explorer

Those who explore the Corbetts get a bit of stick in the club. However, some research has shown that they are truly in search of quality. This is how the Mountain Leaders Training Association describe a quality mountain day.

In terms of experience, the quality of a mountain day lies in such things as the conditions experienced both overhead and underfoot, the exploration of new areas, the terrain covered and the physical and mental challenge. Such days make a positive contribution towards a person's development and maturity as an all-round mountaineer.

Two gnomes in South Africa

by an anonymous farmer



New members

The club extends a warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since the last newsletter.

Doug McFarlane
Jeff Williams
Natasha Williams
Eleanor Williams

Skye Accident

Happily Dianne is fit and well again after her accident in the Cuillins this summer.

999 Text Service

to Assist Hill Walkers and Climbers

Neil mentioned this at the December Open meeting. The procedure can be found on this page on the MC of S web site.

<http://www.mcofs.org.uk/emergency-procedures-card.asp>

The following text is copied from that page.

Mobile phone reception in the Highlands can often be intermittent or non-existent. If you are involved in an incident on the hill and need to call assistance but cannot make voice calls, you may now contact the 999 emergency services using a short messaging service (SMS) text from your mobile phone.

The service was originally set up in 2009 for people who are hard of hearing or who have a speech impediment. The service has been successful in helping identify crime and enabling emergency calls to be made when otherwise contact would have been difficult or impossible for the people involved.

The service will now assist those needing emergency assistance in the hills when mobile reception is poor and there is not enough signal to make a voice call. The benefit is that a text message can be composed and sent in a single operation. You should specify 'Police-Mountain Rescue' when sending the text, and include information about your location, nature of the incident and those involved.

*You will only be able to use this service if you have registered with emergency SMS first. **Register now: don't wait for an emergency.** To register, text the word '**register**' to 999. You will get a reply - then follow the instructions you are sent. This will only take approx two minutes of your time and could save your life!*

Dundee Mountain Film Festival 2014

For the 2nd consecutive year, the club ran a stall at the festival. Although our stall was not as hi-tech or as professional as the other club who were present, we did attract some interest. Thanks to the committee, Penny and Carolyn who manned the stall on a rota. And John Norrie, who volunteered but went down with flu.

WORLD CUP 86 : "the hand of God" **by a Rover**

The 2014 World Cup has come and gone. Who thought Germany would beat Brazil 7-1? Anyway this reminded me of a club weekend in Invergarry in June 1986. There was quite a crowd there. It was a very hot weekend. We were all camped in the campsite at Faichen, near Invergarry - nae bunkhouses then. Sunday 22nd June was spent on an unusual Corbett-Munro combination from Kilfinnan on Loch Lochy. First Ben Tee (901) then a deep bealach, followed by a lovely ridge to Sgurr a Choire Ghairbh (935) and back to Kilfinnan. Since we were all hot and sticky on the way home, we stopped for refreshments at Corriegour Lodge on the south side of Loch Lochy. To our surprise the England versus Argentina quarter final was being shown live on TV, and yes, we witnessed Maradona's "hand of God" incident for the first goal, and then just 3 minutes later, Maradona's fantastic second goal. There was great cheering in the pub - though a certain Mr. Coull was intent on keeping a low profile being the only Englishman present. Argentina won 2-1, then went on to win the trophy.

Australia bound

In August, two of our members Kate Fewell and John Beales left for a new life in Australia. They were presented with a gift of a year's digital subscription to the Scots Magazine and a Debbie-Brian cap embroidered with the club logo, which they promised to wear every day.

Magnetic Variation – 2014

Anyone who uses maps will know that there are 3 norths indication on a map – grid north (the vertical lines), true north (the North Pole) and magnetic north. True north isn't really relevant for navigating, but your compass points to magnetic north, yet the map points to grid north. This difference is called the magnetic variation. When adjusting bearings taken from a map to a compass you need to adjust for magnetic variation. The magnetic north pole is dynamic. It is a mass of molten metal under the earth's crust which moves around. Currently magnetic variation in Scotland is quite small – just over 1 degree. In the past, it has been as high as 5 degrees. In July 2014, here are some readings

Ullapool	1 degree 23 minutes west
Aviemore	1- 47
Fort William	1-14
Crianlarich	1-20

A calculator can be found on the British Geological Survey web site.

http://www.geomag.bgs.ac.uk/data_service/models_compass/gma_calc.html

Of course, we also know that after taking the bearing on a map, since all the variations are west of grid north, we add the variation to the reading on the compass. Most compasses are marked every 2 degrees, so it isn't very much – between half a notch and a whole notch.

Glen Clova Social Meet

Saturday 26th October. 17 members and 2 potential new members attended. Members gathered in the afternoon. The event started with the 2014 boules competition which was keenly fought over in the car park at the front of Scott Lodge (See separate report).

A banquet followed, with the committee providing 2 main courses. All members provided desserts to be shared on the table. Then there followed a brief Halloween party, with Linda, Willie, Neil Steve, Colin and Ian dooking for apples, and Mel, Brian and Colin going for the syrup (Mel) and treacle scones. The evening concluded with a short firework display. Unusually, no one stayed the night in the hut. A good day. Thanks to all.

Carg Dearg Work Party

On the same day as the Glen Clova social meet, Bob & Colin volunteered for the Carn Dearg work party to build a new path to the new hut. It was a productive day and the squad of 15 or so made good progress. Bob donated a gift of a signed Chris Bonington poster from the club to the Carn Dearg, and Colin presented this to Casey, the Carn Dearg president, at lunchtime. This will be hung up in the new hut when completed.

Monday Meetings coming up

Jan 12th – Blair Wilkie
Wildlife Officer, Police Scotland
Feb 2nd – Photographic competition
Mar 2nd – AGM and video
Apr 6th – Members Night
May 11th – Boules and Cricket
June 1 – Treasure Hunt

Full details on web site.